

California Coastal Currents

News and information from the California Coastal Commission

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On Track with the CCT

The California Coastal Trail (CCT) is receiving well-deserved attention these days. The goal of the CCT project is to establish a continuous 1200-mile walking trail along the California coast, from the border of Oregon to the border

of Mexico. Today, the CCT is a work in progress and is about 50% complete. Existing trail segments lead hikers through an amazing diversity of coastal environments, replete with breathtaking views. Two recent actions have rallied support for the project: the designation of the CCT as the State's Millennium Legacy Trail and approval of state Proposition 12.

The White House Millennium Council asked the nation's governors to nominate trails that reflect the essence and spirit of the areas they represent. Governor Gray Davis selected the CCT as California's only nomination. When First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton announced the designation of Legacy Trails in October of 1999, she said, "Each of them stitch a design in our landscape and together help to create a picture of America". As a Millennium Legacy Trail, the CCT receives national recognition and support to help preserve open spaces and enhance recreation and tourism.

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Hikers stop for a moment on the Pecho Coast Trail, a segment of the CCT in San Luis Obispo County.

More support for the project arrived in March of this year when California voters approved Proposition 12, the parks bond, which provides \$5 million specifically for the trail. The California Coastal Conservancy, in administering this money, is working with the California Coastal Commission and State Parks to develop a strategic plan for the best use of the CCT funds. Furthering its support of the project, the Coastal Commission identified completion of the CCT as one of three top priority access issues in its July 2000 Public Access Action Plan.

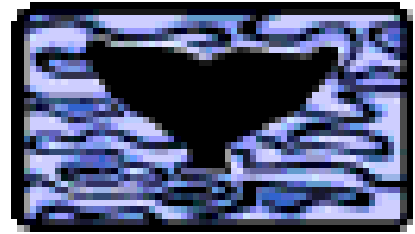
The CCT has come a long way over the years, but considerable challenges lie ahead. In addition to the work of the Coastal Commission, the Conservancy, and State Parks, the project needs the support of the general public and local coastal communities. With all parties working actively together to bridge the gaps in the trail, the project will reach its goal that much sooner.

News from the Whale Tail Grant Program

Targeted Grants Awarded

Seven organizations received a total of \$187,000 in Whale Tail Grants at the September Coastal Commission meeting. Funded by the sale of Whale Tail license plates, the programs support coastal and marine education programs throughout California. Summarized here are each organization and how the grant money will be used.

- S.E.A. Lab Monterey Bay, a national coastal and ocean science education camp for children and teachers, received a grant award to offer an expanded program next summer. The program will offer four one-week sessions to a diverse audience from different areas.
- The Coastal Commission developed the Save Our Seas K-12 Curriculum in 1993 in conjunction with the Center for Marine Conservation. The Coastal Commission is providing a targeted grant to a partner organization to help fund the development of new curriculum materials. The curriculum will address marine debris, polluted runoff, sensitive habitat loss and restoration, and coastal geologic processes.
- The Adopt-A-Beach School Assembly Program and Kids Cleanup shows students the way to cleaner beaches and oceans. The Coastal Commission's grant award provides matching funds equal to the amount of money raised by the program through recycling. The award will provide funding for programs in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego, as well as a new inland program in Fresno.
- An Adopt-A-Beach Restoration Education Program in Upper Newport Bay is being launched in the fall of 2000 with funds from an American Trader Oil Spill settlement. The project will use the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve as a staging area for teaching school groups and the public about the importance of wetlands and other coastal habitats. The Whale Tail Grant award, which supplements the settlement funds, will be used to print additional educational materials and a "how-to" guide to create similar programs in other areas.
- The Environmental Education Compendium for Natural Communities is a teacher's guide to the various curricula and materials that focus on natural communities. The award from the Coastal Commission will provide a portion of funding necessary for updates and reprinting of the compendium.
- The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network supports public involvement and education for the protection of water quality. The Network plans to develop a citizen-based water quality and watershed monitoring program within the Sanctuary and its adjacent watersheds. The targeted grant will help fund a Network Coordinator, who will work with the watershed group.



Applications Available!

The Coastal Commission is now accepting applications for competitive Whale Tail Grants. Last month, the Coastal Commission allocated \$172,000 for the FY 2000/2001 awards. Like the targeted grant program, the competitive program is funded by sales of the Coastal Commission's Whale Tail License Plate and encourages the development of educational programs that teach California's residents to value and take responsibility for the health of the state's marine and coastal environments. Grants are also available for beach operation and maintenance activities with an educational component. Non-profit organizations and governments agencies are eligible for the funds.

Applications are available from Public Education:
www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/pendx.html,
(800) COAST 4U, or
coast4u@coastal.ca.gov.

The application deadline is November 15, 2000.

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Targeted Grants *(continued from page 2)*

- The “Environmentality” Challenge is a statewide program that enlists 5th grade classes to initiate environmental programs in their communities. It is sponsored by the Disney Company and by the California Environmental Education Interagency Network, is a state government consortium of environmental educators representing the California Department of Education, the California EPA and the Resources Agency, including the Coastal Commission. The Coastal Commission’s grant will help support the “Environmentality Challenge”.

The proceeds of the Whale Tail license plate sales will continue to help educate and involve the public in the protection of marine and coastal resources to the ultimate benefit of the environment.

COASTAL COMMISSION CALENDAR

October 10–13, 2000—*Commission Meeting*

The October Commission meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers in the City of Oceanside. To find out what is on the schedule, refer to the agenda on the Coastal Commission’s web page, www.coastal.ca.gov.

November 15, 2000—*Deadline for Whale Tail Grant Applications*

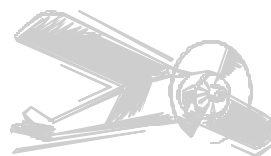
Applicants can be a governmental entity or a non-profit organization. For information and an application form, call (800) COAST 4U or visit the Public Education web pages at www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/pendx.html.

November 16, 2000—*Basic Urban Runoff Training Workshop*

This is the third in a series of workshops sponsored by the Coastal Commission’s Water Quality Unit. The workshop provides technical training for local cities and counties that need to begin a stormwater program, presenting valuable information on how your municipality can achieve “Clean Water and Phase II Stormwater Compliance”. The workshop will address Best Management Practices (BMPs) for construction and post-construction activities, permitting and reporting requirements, and erosion control equipment and materials. Admission is free and the session runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Marinovich Community Center at 120 Second Street in Watsonville. For questions, call Ross Clark at the Commission’s Santa Cruz office at 831.427.4863 or check the upcoming announcement on the Commission’s Nonpoint Source web page at www.coastal.ca.gov/nps/npsndx.html.

Mission: Aerial Photography

In its 2000-20001 budget, the Coastal Commission secured funds to acquire new aerial photography for the California coastal zone. The new imagery will supplement previous aerial photography from 1978, 1986, 1993, and 1994. The Commission has the opportunity to expand the mission, depending on the needs and suggestions of those interested in participating as partners. Additional funding from interested parties could be combined to enlarge the flight area, acquire photography at a larger scale, or convert the images to a digital format. If you believe your agency may like to collaborate on the project, please email or call Greg Benoit by October 17th. He can be reached at gbenoit@coastal.ca.gov or at 831.427.4874.



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General inquiries about the Coastal Commission may be directed to the Headquarters Office in San Francisco at 415.904.5200. Send written correspondence to 45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000, San Francisco, CA 94105.